



L O N G B E A C H

# Wave

*A publication  
for the Long Beach community*

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City web site: [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov)

## No Change to Monthly Billing . . . Meters to be Read Every Other Month

**A**s a result of citywide efforts to reduce costs, beginning in April, the City of Long Beach is changing from reading water and gas meters every month, to reading them every other month (bimonthly). Customers will continue to receive utility bills each month, however, using this new process means your meter will be read and billed one month, and estimated and billed the next month.

Estimated meter reads will be based on your historical usage for the same period last year, or the previous month if prior year information is not available. Current, up-to-date rates will be used every month.

A clear message will be printed on all monthly bills to inform you if an actual or an estimated meter read was used. If an estimated bill was too high or too low, the following month's actual meter read will reflect the necessary correction.

The City has done exhaustive testing to create accurate estimates; however, the City is aware that it is not possible to create perfectly accurate estimates. If you have any questions about your estimated bill or any billing question, call 570.5700 to talk to a customer service representative.

## Health and Human Services . . . Striking Back Against West Nile Virus

**I**n its ongoing efforts to stop mosquito breeding and deter diseases, the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is urging residents to eliminate mosquito breeding sites to deter West Nile Virus (WNV). With the heavy rains and intermittent warm weather trends experienced in Long Beach, WNV is a public health concern. Last year, there were 16 cases and one death associated with WNV in Long Beach.

Symptoms of WNV infection typically begin between 7 to 14 days following the mosquito bite, and consist of fever, muscle and joint aches, fatigue, headache, and other flu-like symptoms. The elderly and immune-suppressed persons are at much greater risk for developing serious WNV illness. To protect yourself and your family against WNV and other mosquito-borne diseases, and to lower mosquito populations, please follow these guidelines:

- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property.
- Apply insect repellent according to label instructions.
- Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active,

especially at dawn and dusk. If you are outdoors at these times, wear long pants, long sleeve shirts and other protective clothing.



- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.

- If you have any questions regarding mosquito control measures in the city of Long Beach, please feel free to contact the DHHS' Vector Control Program at 570.4132 or go to the web site at

[www.longbeach.gov/health](http://www.longbeach.gov/health).

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## IN THE NEWS . . .

### City Rehabilitation Loans Available

Federally-funded rehabilitation loans of up to \$35,000 are available to income-qualified Long Beach homeowners with sufficient equity in their properties.

These loans are designed to correct building code-related problems such as leaking roofs, inadequate electrical systems, peeling interior and exterior paint, and deteriorated kitchens and bathrooms. Loan funds may also be available to make other general home improvements on a case-by-case basis.

For additional information, or to apply for a loan, please contact the City's Housing Services Bureau at 570.6808.

### Armada Baseball Team

**Long Beach Armada at the helm of America's favorite past time!**

The City's new baseball team, the Long Beach Armada, will be launching its 2005 baseball season in late May. Visit [www.goldenbaseball.com/longbeach](http://www.goldenbaseball.com/longbeach) or call 597.9787 for more information.



### Visit Your Local Libraries!

Celebrate National Library Month in April by attending a special event at your local library, accessing the Internet or one of the library's many electronic resources, checking out books or media, and experiencing how libraries change lives.

For more information, go to your local Long Beach Public Library or visit the Library's web site at [www.lbpb.org](http://www.lbpb.org).

### Grand Prix

**On your mark! Get set! GO!**

The 31st Annual Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach from April 8-10 is a three-day racing festival featuring 200-mph Champ Cars, the Toyota Pro/Celebrity Race, Drifting exhibitions, concerts, Auto Club Lifestyle Expo and a week of activities leading up to race weekend. For more information, visit [www.longbeachgp.com](http://www.longbeachgp.com) or call 888.82.SPEED.



### Speakers Bureau

Through the Speakers Bureau, City representatives speak on a variety of topics including youth services, diversity outreach and government information. This free service is available to groups of 10 or more. Call 570.6379 for a full list of topics.

### Long Beach Junior Lifeguards

The Long Beach Junior Lifeguards is offering a six-week lifeguard-training program for boys and girls, ages 9 - 17 years old. Tryouts will be held in April and June. For more information call 570.8550.

### Opportunities for Community Input

The City of Long Beach wants to know what you think on a number of key issues facing our community, including an LNG Educational Community Forum and the 2006 Budget. Visit [www.longbeach.gov](http://www.longbeach.gov), and click on Community Involvement to find out how you can make a difference.

Save  
Save



**\$75 REBATE**

Purchase any new toilet and receive a rebate for \$75. Certain restrictions apply; see application for details and program information.

Download an application from our website at [www.lbwater.org](http://www.lbwater.org) or call 435-7744



**\$125 REBATE**

Purchase a new, approved High Efficiency Clothes Washer and receive a rebate for \$125. Certain restrictions apply; see application for details and program information.

Download an application from our website at [www.lbwater.org](http://www.lbwater.org) or call 435-7744

Be sure the model you are interested in is an approved HECW before purchase!



**FREE**

Learn how to create a beautiful water-smart landscape that will lower your water bill, reduce yard maintenance, and protect the environment.

**FREE 4-hour classes are offered once-per-month on Saturday mornings.**

Visit our web site for information on the class material and class schedules ([www.lbwater.org](http://www.lbwater.org))

Seating is limited; to reserve a spot today, call 570-2303.

**These important water conservation programs are offered by your Long Beach Water Department - your partner in water quality, water reliability, and environmental protection.**

Save  
Save

*This information is available in an alternate format by calling 570.6379.*